

**Minutes of East Down Parish Council Meeting  
at 8.00 p.m. on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at East Down Village Hall**

**Attendance:** Cllrs. K. Phillips (Chair), R. Crossman, Mrs E. Kempf, M. King, R. Tarr, M. Wright, District Cllr J. Tucker and Mrs M. Done (Clerk).

Cllr. Mr Keith Phillips welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Apologies:** none
2. **Declarations of Interest/Dispensations.** None
3. **Public Participation.** None

**Part A**

4. **County/District Councillors' Reports by email**

**County Councillor Davis's report:**

- Devon Councils and two National Parks call for more devolved powers
- Free community courses launched to help lower alcohol consumption in the over 50s.

**District Councillor Tucker's report:**

- Harvest Farm – visited by enforcement officer who has no concerns with premises
- Successful prosecution for failure to comply with two court orders regarding building in dangerous condition
- Affordable Housing threshold – High Court judgement between two local authorities and Government resolved but results in delay for the emerging Local Plan
- Legal Highs. The bill for a total ban on these substances, subject to Parliamentary approval should be in place by April 2016
- New Grants up to £7000 for solid wall properties
- NDDC has new Whistleblowing policy which can be viewed on the website.
- North Devon Rural Alliance. Next meeting 24<sup>th</sup> November at Marwood Community Hall. Councillors urged to attend.

Councillor Tucker then left the meeting.

5. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> June.**

Resolved to accept and signed.

6. **Matters arising from the minutes.** None

7. **Planning**

**Application 59811. Extension, internal alterations and conversion of garage/store into ancillary accommodation at Combe Cottage, East Down.** The plans were studied and following discussion it was agreed to recommend approval. Clerk to advise Case Officer.

**Application 59328.** Prior Approval Application for change of use of agricultural buildings to three dwellings [Class Q (a) and (b)] at Maddox Down Farm, East Down.

**It was noted that the planning department had written on the application that “Unlike a Planning Application, this isn't an opportunity for the Parish Council to make a recommendation on this Prior Approval Application this is purely for your Parish Council to note and to submit any comments they may have.”**

The plans were studied and discussed. The following comments to be sent to the Case Officer.

- In view of the roads being well used by horse riders and dog walkers, there were concerns over the speed and increase in volume of traffic.
- One route to the site is through Bugford and this road is very narrow and in an extremely poor state of repair as well as affected by lots of surface water.
- When converted as on the plans the appearance of the building looks like those found on an industrial park and in view of its location this was felt to be undesirable.
- Five Councillors expressed concern over the appearance of one building and one Councillor was not concerned.

**Consent by Planning Inspectorate: (for information only) none**

## **8. Financial Statement of accounts for the year to date and payments**

Bank Balances 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 P3 Account £1160.61;  
Parish Council Account £4384.43.

PWLB Direct Debit of £175.50 will be taken on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.

Cllrs R. Crossman and M. King had completed the Bank forms to be signatories and these would be posted off to Lloyds Bank.

The Audit forms had been returned signed off and were posted up for parishioners to see. Two comments made by the Auditors regarding PAYE of the Clerk and Financial Risk Assessment. The Clerk had addressed this by quoting the letter from ND Council confirming that there is no need for us to do this in view of the system in place where tax is taken at source by the Inland Revenue. Our Risk Assessment is reviewed annually and approved at the AGM and since there is no petty cash and all payments are authorised and signed off at meetings this is a sound system.

## **9. Data Protection and Freedom of Information.**

Following advice from DALC and the monitoring Officer the Clerk had registered the Council at a cost of £35 for the year. When the receipt arrives this will be presented for reimbursement.

## **10. Parish Paths Partnership.**

Notification received that we would soon have a further £200 paid into the P3 account to make up the shortfall on approved projects.

Cllr Tarr reported he had received a quote (£640.54) from KS Fencing for the work on the bridge on Footpath 15. It was decided that a further quote should be obtained from Dan Perrin or A & B.

The steps onto a footpath on Dudmoor Lane are in need of urgent strimming and quotes are to be obtained from KS Fencing and Dan Perrin.

## **11. Rural Alliance.**

Cllr Tarr reported on the Alliance meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> August which covered the latest on Superfast Broadband provision in Devon. He then spoke about the continuing new Government regulations for Planning Departments which were causing a delay in submitting the New Local Plan.

## **12. Chairman's items.**

### **TAP Fund – drains/gullies needing work.**

Dudmoor Lane covered with leaves - to be added to list being compiled for prioritising.

**Potholes** – Bugford Bridge both sides and outside Gratton Cottage

Clerk to email C. Cllr Andrea Davis. Also a request to Highways for information regarding a supply of free material for temporary filling of potholes.

The Clerk reported that the problem of poor visibility in both directions had now been addressed by Highways following an email to them.

**North Devon Community Fund.** A new Fund has been set up for which we are part of Combe Martin Rural Group. This means that we can apply for more than our £1.10 per elector for a project to help our community. There is £8796.70 available for the Combe Martin Group. The application needs to benefit/be supported by at least one other parish. We have received a request from Loxhore Parish Council to support their application for audio equipment in the region of £2-3 thousand pounds. Loxhore is not in our group. The Clerk will contact the Village Hall Trustees to see if they have a project that needs support.

## **13. Correspondence.**

Audit Form returned signed off by Auditors

PWLB Notification of Direct Debit

Peter-Heaton Jones Surgery dates – on noticeboard and Village Hall

Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service – request to attend meeting

Request from Loxhore Parish Council to support bid for funds for audio-visual equipment

### **Emails:**

Go North Devon questionnaire

Devon Minerals Plan

Northern Devon Healthcare Consultation Safe and Effective Care within our budget

Invitation to North Devon Homes AGM

Rural Opportunities bulletin

DALC – various

Rural Services Network weekly email

NDC weekly information sheets and planning applications lodged and enforcement cases closed

### **Magazines**

Clerks and Council Direct

Healthwatch Voice Summer 2015

## **14. Date of next meeting.**

It was agreed the next meeting would be on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2015. Following discussion **it was agreed that future meetings would start at 7.30 p.m.**

Cllr Phillips asked for his apologies to be recorded for the October meeting owing to his holiday. The Vice Chairman, Cllr Wright would chair the meeting.

**Part 'B'** (Confidential Restricted information) None.

The meeting closed at 10.10 p.m.